


BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY
in the Francis A. Countway
Library of Medicine ~ *Boston*



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Open Knowledge Commons and Harvard Medical School

Dr. Constantine Hering's



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY,

March 23d, 1876.

CELEBRATION
OF THE
SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
GRADUATION IN MEDICINE
OF
CONSTANTINE HERING, M.D.

PRELIMINARY.

On the evening of the 22d of February, 1876, a small party of physicians came together, by invitation, at the office of Dr. C. G. Raue, 121 North Tenth Street, for the purpose of discussing the subject of paying due regard to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the reception of the degree of Doctor in Medicine, by their friend and colleague, Dr. Constantine Hering. Dr. Richard Gardiner acted as chairman of this meeting, and Dr. B. F. Betts as Secretary. After a full and free discussion, it was agreed that a mass meeting of the homœopathic physicians of Philadelphia should be called, to take further action in the matter; and in accordance with this resolve, a call was issued, setting forth the object of the meeting, and signed by all who were present at Dr. Raue's office.

MEETINGS OF PHYSICIANS.

In accordance with the above invitation, a large number of the physicians of Philadelphia, and Dr. Henry F. Hunt, of Camden, N. J., assembled in the lecture room of the Hahnemann Medical College, on the evening of February 28th, 1876, and the meeting was organized by calling Dr. A. R. Thomas to preside and Dr. R. J. McClatchey to act as Secretary.

Dr. Thomas stated the object of the meeting, and made an announcement to the effect that a letter had been received from a physician of New York City, in which attention had been called to a custom of the German universities of conferring a new degree upon a graduate of fifty years standing, and that an effort would no doubt be made to secure the Honorary Degree for Dr. Hering from every homœopathic college in the United States.

The meeting then proceeded to transact its business, and, having resolved that it was eminently due and proper that the important event should be celebrated in a becoming manner, unanimously agreed that a banquet should be given in honor of Dr. Hering, on the evening preceding the anniversary day; and appointed a committee, consisting of Drs. A. Korndœrfer, M. S. Williamson, John K. Lee, C. G. Raue and P. Dudley, to decide on a permanent testimonial to be presented to Dr. Hering.

An Executive Committee, to carry out the intent of the meeting, was then appointed, consisting of Drs. C. G. Raue, Adolph Fellger, M. S. Williamson, Pemberton Dudley, Jos. C. Guernsey, A. R. Thomas and R. J. McClatchey.

The committee to decide on a permanent testimonial reported in favor of the presentation to Dr. Hering of a Complimentary Address, to be handsomely engrossed and framed; whereupon the report was accepted and adopted and the committee were discharged. It was then moved and carried that a committee be appointed to draft an Address, and have the same handsomely engrossed and framed for presentation on the occasion of the Banquet, and to confer with the deans of the homœopathic colleges of the country relative to the procurement of the diplomas of the honorary degree from them. In accordance with this motion Drs. R. J. McClatchey, A. R. Thomas, Jno. K. Lee and William H. Bigler, were appointed said committee.

The meeting then adjourned, to meet the following week and hear the reports of the above committees.

In accordance with this adjournment, a meeting was held at the College Building, on the evening of March 3d, at which Dr. Richard Gardiner presided, in the absence of Dr. Thomas. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved.

Dr. Jos. C. Guernsey presented the report of the Committee of Arrangements, which was modified, by vote, and then accepted, and the committee were further instructed.

Dr. McClatchey presented the report of the committee to prepare a Complimentary Address, etc. The Address presented by the committee was adopted by a unanimous vote, and the Committee of Arrangements were instructed to appoint signers on behalf of the physicians.

The meeting then adjourned.

THE BANQUET.

The Union League House, situated on Broad Street below Chestnut, having been chosen by the Committee on Arrangements as the place for the banquet, on the evening of Wednesday, March 22d, that historical building was made still further memorable by the first gathering under its hospitable roof of a convention of homœopathic physicians, who had met together to do honor to the greatest among them, and celebrate his Jubilee. The blue parlor of the League was the assembly room, and from eight o'clock until nine, on that evening, doctors greeted doctors, from home and from abroad, and the hearty hand-shakes, the timeful congratulations, and the good humored countenances of the party assembled, indicated that an extraordinary occasion had called these men together, and that there was even more than the usual friendliness and good will that characterize the social gatherings of the disciples of Hahnemann. Dr. Hering was, of course, the central figure and "the cynosure of neighboring eyes," and as friend after friend came forward to congratulate him, and tender him the compliments of the occasion, his eyes brightened and he seemed to grow young again.

At nine o'clock, and under the guidance and direction of Dr. Joseph C. Guernsey, of Philadelphia, Master of Ceremonies, the company were arranged into marching order, Dr. Hering leading, and supported on the one side by the veteran Dr. P. P. Wells, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and on the other by the distinguished president of "The World's Homœopathic Convention," Dr. Carroll Dunham, of Irvington, N. Y., and followed by other invited guests, each guest supported by a subscriber to the testimonial fund; the ranks being closed by other Philadelphia physicians, of the more prominent and distinguished of whom there was scarcely one absent. The delightful music of Hassler's Orchestra was heard as the procession passed into the hall and wended its way to the spacious dining room of the League, bursting into a triumphal march as guests and hosts entered the room.

The banquetting room presented a gay scene, brilliantly lighted and decorated, with the festive board decked with all the ornamentation of the caterer's art. A portrait of Dr. Hering, taken a number of years ago, was placed on an easel at one end of the room, while the complimentary testimonial prepared for presentation by the Philadelphia physicians, was similarly placed in another situation. Dr. Hering seated himself at the head of the table, supported by his confrères Drs. Wells and Dunham, and flanked by other invited guests, each one supported by a resident of the city of brotherly love. Drs. P. P. WELLS, of Brooklyn, N. Y., CARROLL DUNHAM, of Irvington, N. Y., S. LILIENTHAL, of New York, HENRY M. SMITH, of New York, JOHN W. DOWLING, of New York, S. P. BURDICK, of New York, J. H. McCLELLAND, of Pittsburgh, Pa., and FRANCIS WELLS, Esq., of the Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin*, were thus seated and supported.

As the last strain of the music died away, Dr. R. J. McClatchey arose in his place and calling upon Dr. Hering, who arose, presented the banquet in the following appropriate though brief address:—

DR. HERING,—*Sir*: I have a few words to say to you, in behalf of the physicians of our city, before we proceed to discuss the subjects now before us.

Your friends and neighbors of the homœopathic medical profession of Philadelphia, having a very high appreciation of your merits as a man and as a fellow citizen, and of your talents, labors, and position as a scientist, and more especially as a homœopathist, have taken this occasion to bear public testimony to their feelings by tendering you this banquet, gotten up to do you honor, and to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of that auspicious event which gave to Medicine a master mind—your graduation as Doctor in Medicine at the University of Wurzburg, on the 23d of March, 1826.

To give you pleasure, sir, and to do themselves honor, they have invited some of your oldest and dearest professional friends from other cities to sit down with us, and others also who are just as much your friends, though not of such long standing. They are all, like yourself, eminent in the profession, and we are proud to have the honor of their company.

Accept this banquet, sir, in the spirit in which it is offered you, and partake of it as of a feast of love; and believe me that, however varied and appetizing the viands may be that the *cuisinier* may place before us, they will be none the less palatable, but all the more acceptable, for the strong sprinkling of the salt of friendship with which the whole feast is seasoned.

I have the honor to request you to be seated.

Dr. Hering thereupon bowed his acknowledgments and sat down, and the company at once proceeded to do justice to the excellent fare, the banquet being served in the best style for which the League is famous. The following comprised the

BILL OF FARE:

OYSTERS:

On the Shell.

SOUP:

Mock Turtle. Italienne.

FISH:

Shad, a la Maître d' Hotel.

ROAST:

Tenderloin of Beef, with Mushrooms.

VEGETABLES:

Corn, Tomatoes, Spinage, Mashed Potatoes baked.

SIDE DISHES:

Sweetbread Paté a la Toulouse. Salmi of Canvass-back Duck.

SALAD:

Lobster and Chicken. Oyster Croquettes.

DESSERT:

Ice Cream, Fruit, Coffee, Almonds and Raisins.

At least two hours were thus pleasantly spent, dish following dish and course following course, amid the enlivening strain of sweet music, the sparkling of champagne, the jest, the laugh, and the general enjoyment of the whole assemblage.

At length, as the feast drew to a close, Dr. Jos. C. Guernsey called the table to order, and introduced Dr. John K. Lee, of West Philadelphia.

PRESENTATION OF THE TESTIMONIAL.

Dr. Lee, unvailing the testimonial intended to express to Dr. Hering the affection, respect and high esteem of his friends and neighbors, addressed the doctor in the following terms:

DR. HERING,—*Honored and Revered Sir*: I come to you, not with the language of fulsome eulogy or empty and unmeaning platitudes, but to speak the words of truth and soberness. And permit me, as the representative of your professional neighbors and friends, to tender you our warmest congratulations on the occurrence of this the fiftieth anniversary of your graduation in medicine.

Receiving your inspiration at the feet of Hahnemann, you early went forth as the disciple of a new dispensation, which promised to deliver Medicine from the thralldom of traditional errors and incongruities, and do for *it* what Kepler did for Astronomy and Newton for Physics,—rescue it from the uncertainties of hypotheses and invest it with the dignity and importance of a Science. Upon this high mission you entered with all the ardor and enthusiasm of youth, and dedicated to its service the strength of your manhood and the vigor and culture of your intellect; and while your life has been one of unremitting toil and self-denial, it has been sublime in its purpose and glorious in its results.

Your pen has enriched our literature with its contributions, and made our *Materia Medica* an enduring monument of your untiring research and industry. To-day, wherever homœopathy has a votary or its blessings are distilled like the gentle dews of the morning, there the name of Dr. Hering is known and revered; and to-night, as a victor on many a field of peaceful conflict we hail

you, and offer the homage of our profound respect and gratitude, and wreath for your brow the chaplet of honor.

As a fitting memento of this interesting occasion, accept this testimonial of your brethren, not because of its intrinsic worth, but as the embodiment of their sentiments and the spontaneous offering of warm hearts and true friends.

In conclusion, let me invoke upon your head, already hoary with the frosts of more than three-score years and ten, the choicest benediction of heaven. May your life be long*preserved for the benefit of humanity, and when you leave this world may you depart as the setting sun, amid the halo of your own brightness, and be received into the realms of a blissful immortality.

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS, ETC.

At the conclusion of Dr. Lee's address, which was loudly applauded, Prof. John W. Dowling, Dean of the New York Homœopathic College, presented to Dr. Hering the diploma of the Honorary Degree conferred to him by that institution.

Dr. Dowling made the following address:

Gentlemen :—I am here this evening as one of a committee appointed by the faculty of the New York Homœopathic Medical College, to pay a tribute of respect to Dr. Constantine Hering, a man whose spotless life and professional record of half a century, we New Yorkers are in the habit of referring to with feelings of pride.

It is nearly twenty years since I left your city, with that diploma under my arm, which conferred upon me the degree of doctor of medicine. It has been rare that I have had occasion to visit your city since. To-day I have made quite an extended tour. I have visited your beautiful park, which twenty years ago was a wilderness. I have gazed with awe upon those grand and magnificent Centennial Buildings, which do honor to you as Philadelphians, which do honor to you as American citizens. I have driven through the recently improved portions of your city and marked the changes there; through localities with which I was familiar twenty years ago. I passed the house where my dear old friend and teacher, Prof. Walter Williamson, lived and died, the college where he taught, and which to-day I am proud to claim as my Alma Mater. I drove past the old house, where some of the happiest years of my boyhood were spent. I drove by the house where you, Dr. Hering, have passed so many years of your life.

It was my privilege sir, as a student, twenty years ago, to be one of a favored few who listened to lectures delivered by you in your private office, and to-day I wish to thank you for the instruction and pleasure then imparted. From that day to this, I have never heard your name mentioned but it has sent a thrill through my heart, prompted by feelings of love and respect. And now, sir, it becomes my pleasure as Dean of the New York Homœopathic Medical College, in the name and behalf of the trustees and faculty of that college, to confer upon you the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine. And, sir, in behalf of the trustees and faculty of that institution, the physicians of New York city, and of New York State, I offer the prayer that your life may be spared for many, many years in prosperity and happiness.

Professor A. R. Thomas, Dean of the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, then presented to Dr. Hering the diploma of the Honorary Degree conferred on him by that College, saying:

DR. HERING:—On an occasion like the present, it would seem most appropriate that the officers of an Institution, in the organization of which you were personally instrumental, of whose teaching body you for many years formed a part, in the success of which you have always felt a lively interest, and the present prosperous condition of which is in no small degree the result of your wise counsel and sound advice, should make some acknowledgment of their appreciation of these facts. With this view, therefore, the Faculty and Trustees of the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, on this semi-centennial of the commencement of your professional career, on this golden return of the anniversary of your marriage to the profession of your choice, desire to present you this Honorary Diploma as an appropriate testimonial. In thus endeavoring to add in some degree to the honors to be conferred upon you this evening, we feel that by this act we are doing a still greater honor to the college and her 1140 alumni, scattered through the length and breadth of the land.

In receiving the document, you will please accept with it the hearty congratulations of the officers of this Institution, and their earnest prayer that you may long live to enjoy the fruits of your previous labors, so freely given for the benefit of the profession and humanity.

And now before taking my seat, I am asked by your old friend and coadjutor in the Allentown Academy, Dr. H. Detwiller, who is present with us this evening, to present you with the document which I now hold in my hand. The surviving associates of yourself in the organization of that school of nearly forty years ago, desiring to join in this general expression of appreciation of your labors, have prepared this neatly executed testimonial; and attached to the same I find the seal of the Institution, and the signatures D. J. H. Pulte, M.D., H. Detwiller, M.D., and J. Romig, M.D.

This action of your old associates in the pioneer work at Allentown, will no doubt serve to revive many pleasing recollections of those long bygone days, and the document which they present you will be treasured as one of the most valued presentations of this occasion; you will receive it with the best wishes of your old colleagues for your future health and happiness, and with assurances of their high personal esteem and regard.

Dr. Joseph C. Guernsey then read a letter of regret from Dr. John F. Gray, of New York, and the following letter from Dr. John Romig, of Allentown, Pa., an old friend of Dr. Hering and his former associate in the Allentown Academy.

Allentown, Pa., March 17th, 1876.

J. C. GUERNSEY, M.D.

Dear Sir:—The Circular of the Homœopathic Physicians of Philadelphia, announcing a Banquet and the presentation of an Address to Dr. C. Hering, on the Fiftieth Anniversary of his professional career, and your note, conveying to me the request of the Committee of Arrangements "to be present personally as an invited guest and friend of Dr. Hering," have been received this day.

To be present on so interesting an occasion would be esteemed by me not only as an honor, but would also afford me a peculiar satisfaction and happiness. Sickness in my family, and my own increasing infirmities of health, however, make it doubtful whether I shall be able to give myself the pleasure of accepting your very kind invitation. Should it be at all possible, I shall be with you; but as it is a mere possibility, I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the contemplated congratulatory testimonials to the worth of so distinguished a fellow-laborer in the cause of our noble profession as Dr. Hering, and to express the hope that complete success may crown your efforts.

It is now *fifty-one* years since I received my diploma from the University of Pennsylvania. During the whole of this time I have been in active practice, and, having embraced the doctrine of homœopathy in the earlier years of my professional labors, I was brought in close contact with the pioneers of this school at a time when it required great self-denial, involved bitter animosities, loss of friends and patronage, to adhere to the principles which we were fully convinced would usher in a great epoch in the history of medical science.

It was at this time, shortly after I had commenced to study and practice homœopathy, that it was my great good fortune to meet Dr. Hering. Being more or less associated with him in the attempt to establish the first Homœopathic Medical School in this country, I learned to know him well, and to form that high appreciation of him as an earnest seeker after truth, and a man of extraordinary mental endowment, which the lapse of nearly half a century has not dimmed.

I take, therefore, more than ordinary interest in the very worthy object which will bring you together on the 22d and 23d inst., and should I be prevented from being present personally, I shall feel myself deprived of a great pleasure and privilege, in which event, I beg you to present my very warmest congratulations to Dr. Hering, and assure him of the continuance of my sincere friendship and esteem, with the prayer that God, our Heavenly Father, may extend to him a long, useful, prosperous and happy life.

Accept for yourself, my dear sir, the assurance of my sincere regard, and present to those whom you represent, my thanks for the kindness with which they have been pleased to remember me.

Very truly Yours

JNO. ROMIG.

Prof. O. B. Gause, by request, then read the Testimonial, which, engrossed and framed, had been presented to Dr. Hering by the physicians of Philadelphia.

THE TESTIMONIAL.

TO OUR REVERED AND BELOVED COLLEAGUE,

CONSTANTINE HERING,

WHO, HAVING RECEIVED THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WURZBURG, MARCH 23d, 1826, TO-DAY, BY THE FAVOR OF HEAVEN, WITNESSES THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THAT OCCASION, WE, THE HOMŒOPATHIC PHYSICIANS OF PHILADELPHIA, IN MASS MEETING ASSEMBLED, OFFER OUR AFFECTIONATE CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES.

TO HIS EXCEPTIONAL INTELLECTUAL ABILITY, UNTIRING INDUSTRY, BROAD CULTURE AND LIBERAL SPIRIT, HOMŒOPATHY PRE-EMINENTLY OWES HER FIRM ESTABLISHMENT AND VIGOROUS GROWTH IN AMERICA. THE YEAR OF HIS JUBILEE FINDS HIM STILL OCCUPIED, IN THE SAME SPIRIT, IN LABORS FOR THE SAME END.

PASSING IN REVIEW THE FORTY-THREE YEARS OF HIS FELLOW-CITIZENSHIP WITH US, WE REGARD WITH GRATEFUL ADMIRATION HIS LABORS IN THE BROAD FIELD OF SCIENCE, HIS UNSELFISH DEVOTION TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ART OF HEALING, HIS GENEROUS DEMEANOR TOWARDS HIS FELLOW-WORKERS, AND THE PURE RECORD OF HIS SPOTLESS LIFE.

MAY A KIND PROVIDENCE LONG SPARE HIM TO A PROFESSION WHICH HE HONORS, AND TO COLLEAGUES IN WHOSE HEART HE IS CHERISHED.

Attest:

A. R. THOMAS, M.D., *President.*

ROBERT J. MCCLATCHEY, M.D., *Secretary.*

JACOB JEANES, M.D.,

A. W. KOCH, M.D.,

C. NEIDHARD, M.D.,

H. N. GUERNSEY, M.D.,

C. G. RAUE, M.D.,

RICHARD GARDINER, M.D.,

Committee of Signers.

THE TOASTS AND RESPONSES.

DR. J. C. GUERNSEY, who also officiated as Toast Master, then announced the first regular Toast, which was

To the Memory of Hahnemann. This toast was drank in silence, the company standing, and the orchestra playing an appropriate selection.

“*To Doctor Constantine Hering* we will drink the second toast,” then rang out the voice of the Toast-master, “and I call upon the veteran Dr. P. P. Wells, of Brooklyn, N. Y., to respond, which I know he will do *con amore*.” DR. P. P. WELLS, after the orchestra had ceased playing, then arose at his place and spoke as follows:—

Gentlemen:—On the first day of January, in the year of our Lord 1800, in the town of Oschatz, in Saxony, there was a remarkable event. It was the *birth of a baby*. Do you say there was nothing uncommon in that? I reply, this was no common baby. It was a very remarkable baby, and this was soon manifest. For immediately on his finding himself thrust into a world where he was compelled to do his own breathing, he at once began, with ceaseless activity, endeavoring to *find out all about it*. In this he was probably the most active baby that ever was born. He was never quiet, but ever restless, day and night, sleeping but little, for the most part wide awake and busy, *finding it out*. Do you ask how I know this? I have it by infallible inference from the fact that they named this baby CONSTANTINE HERING. So the baby lived and grew, sturdy and strong, ever thus employed, till babyhood became boyhood, and even this, strange as it may seem, brought no change as to this singular idiosyncrasy, he was ever and incessantly trying to *find it out*. This boy expanded into the youth, and he was the same, still *finding it out*. The youth had just merged into early manhood, when in March, 1826, and on the 23d day of that month, the University of Wurzburg presented him to the world as a Doctor of Medicine, and by this time he had *found out* a good deal. In the May following he received the honorable appointment of Teacher of Mathematics and the Natural Sciences in Blochmann’s Institute, in the City of Dresden. In connection with this Institute, and in the interests of Natural Science, the king of Saxony sent him to the Southern part of this continent, in November of the same year. In this new situation the habits of early life were equally conspicuous. Enquiry and experiment were his constant employment. In these he never grew weary, and from these he never ceased till he had accomplished the objects of his mission; work ever seemed his only rest. In these labors nothing by its minuteness escaped his observation; nothing by greatness his mastering; nothing by its evanescence eluded his grasp. The molecule, the planet, and the lightning even were each and equally compelled to stand and yield up their secrets to the mastering mind of this young man. He continued in these employments in Surinam, S. A., about seven years. There was but one thing in all the difficulties attending his pursuits which he never could find out. That was the practical meaning of the word *impossible*. I strongly suspect he never believed there was such a word.

But on the present occasion it is not so much the man of science as the physician with which we have to do. We have said he was made a doctor in 1826.

The remarkable thing about this is, they made an old school doctor of him, and he survived it. Survived it, retaining his earliest, early and later thirst for knowledge, with increasing diligence in its pursuit. This is certainly very remarkable, in view of the known fact that a young doctor no sooner lays his hand on the precious parchment, than he is seized with the absorbing conceit that now he *knows all about it*. This is especially apparent in the case of old-school young doctors. Under the influence of this delusion they almost uniformly drift away together into a total darkness as to all laws which can throw light on the science of therapeutics or direct its practice. The escape of our young friend from this common fate, can only be explained when we know the fact that previous to the reception of this doctorate, he had become a convert to the truths of homœopathy. This saved him. Anchored to these he went out to bless the world by teaching them to others, and in the exercise of his pristine restless activity, to advance from these to a knowledge of new facts and principles in harmony with them, till he had gathered from his survey of the broad field of nature before him, such stores of knowledge of phenomena of disease, the effects of external agents on the living organism, the relations of these latter to the former, which constitute them their curatives, that he soon stood before the profession an acknowledged master, the peer of the noblest of them all.

Having accomplished the objects of his mission to Surinam, he started for his native country, in his progress to which he landed in Philadelphia, in January, 1833, with the purpose of soon resuming his journey, and in Dresden again to return to his official duties in the Institute, to the official staff of which he was still attached. But this he was never more to do. Providence blessed us by permitting him, who had mastered the planets and the lightning, to be himself conquered by the conqueror of us all, sooner or later. I need not say that victor was a lovely woman. She cast her spell over him and he was bound by it and could go no further. She became his, and through her power over him he became hers and ours from thenceforth.

These were the circumstances and this the manner of the advent among us, now more than forty-three years ago, of the man from whom has gone out, more than from any and all others, light and teaching which have made homœopathy what it is in the land to-day, a recognized power of beneficence, which, whoever will, may hate, but only the recklessly daring will longer make the object of a sneer, as all did at the beginning of his career among us, even the most pusillanimous and contemptible.

It may be well to look a moment at the state of things in the country at that time, as to all belonging to his favorite doctrines and practice. There were no text-books in the language of the country, from which, if any were desirous of doing so, they could learn its principles. There were no manuals of *Materia Medica* or repertories to aid any who might wish to make practical application of the law of cure which homœopathy had proclaimed. There was almost no literature from which a knowledge of that system of curing, so generally believed to be absurd and as generally ridiculed, could be obtained. There were no schools where the homœopathic system of medicine was taught. There was here and there one scattered over the Eastern part of the country (with one exception, not two in any one place), but few altogether, who were endeavoring to practice, in part or in whole, with the light which was in them, according to the law of healing which Hahnemann had promulgated. These, taken as a whole, were not sufficient to modify in a great degree the total darkness which prevailed, as to all knowledge of natural law or principles controlling the thera-

peutics of the time. Now how different is all this. We have text-books, manuals, repertories, literature and schools. Instead of the few scattered struggling ones who then scarcely gave light enough to make the prevailing darkness apparent, now there are thousands of intelligent practitioners of the school, furnished with all needed helps to facilitate their labors and aid their success. Such is the contrast between 1833 and 1876.

Now, as we have said, from Constantine Hering more than from any other man or men, have gone out the forces which directly or indirectly have wrought this great change. He taught publicly and privately, and he has taught incessantly, because he could not help it. Publicly in Allentown and Philadelphia. Privately wherever he has been, in season and out of season, always teaching. Whatever may have been the value of his public instructions, and we esteem them at the highest, we have no doubt those which were more and most private, have contributed more to the spread and triumphs of homœopathy, and the increase of the number of its practitioners. The abundance of these, and their influence on the minds and practice of men, none but the Omniscient can ever know. No one who has been blest with their benefits will ever forget them. Rich, free, full, generous, abundant, asking no reward but a listening ear and an absorbing mind, he was never weary of instructing the ignorant, strengthening the weak, encouraging the doubting and fearing, and leading any who needed guidance into clearer light and a self-sustaining confidence.

Early in the history of this period of change, even in distant New England, whose inhabitants have a traditional reputation for a disposition to *find things out*, there was here and there one who had heard that there was a system of cure called homœopathy; that it gave increased power to cure, as compared with the ancient school of practice founded on mere hypothesis, and that there was a man in Philadelphia who knew something about it. These went there and to him, were taught and returned with light, which they were, more than for any other thing, anxious to make known to their neighbors. These neighbors came, and they were in turn followed by others, till the number was great who came to this centre of light, as to the Mecca of the new faith, and Constantine Hering became their prophet. It was in this way that homœopathy spread so rapidly in those days, and this place and man became *the* centre of the great light. I myself was one of those pilgrims in 1842. I know no way in which I can show so satisfactorily the spirit and manner of this private teaching, the noble, generous heart of the teacher, his unparalleled unselfishness and his unwearied patience, as by relating my first introduction to him by letter, at his residence in Philadelphia, and what followed. After reading the letter he said "how long do you remain in town?" When told, he said "come to me to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock, and I will see no one else." At this time his consultation room was thronged by such numbers as have rarely been found in any other. Of course I did not fail to keep the appointment. He took me to a private room, turned the key in the lock, heeded no taps at the door, and from this time till far into the small hours of the night he was telling me just what I needed to know, without the least cessation. This was only interrupted by my inability to endure longer absorption, being an invalid, and not in the least by his tiring of pouring from his overflowing fulness into my empty vessel. Apparently he was quite willing to go on to I don't know what limit. When told I must leave and the cause, he at once said "come to me to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock, and I will see no one else." The second call was a repetition of the first, in the matters of instruction given and received, duration into

the small hours, and like the other was brought to an end only by my inability to endure longer. He not only told me just what I needed to know, but what has been of practical use to me from that day to this. And this was all with such an air of evident satisfaction and enjoyment on his part, that I have no recollection of thanking him for his kindness. He dismissed me with so much of the manner of one who had just been blessed himself, rather than of one who had been imparting his wealth to another, that the picture as it is now in my memory, is a living, pleasing illustration of the truth, it is more blessed to give than to receive. I don't believe I thanked you then, sir, for your abundant goodness. I do not remember that I did, but I do it now from the very centre of a warm, grateful heart. Be assured, sir, I have never ceased to hold in memory a sense of your great goodness, or of the greatness of the benefit you then conferred on me.

Gentlemen, I have no reason for supposing this to be an exceptional case at all. There was no cause for partiality on his part for me. He had never heard my name or seen it, till he read the note I handed him. I had no claim on him for the least favor. There was nothing in me personally to call out such unexampled beneficence. The whole was a spontaneous overflow of his generous nature, such as always blessed the needy who called on him. And it has been by a continuance of such acts that he has made the impress of his mind so broad and deep on the homœopathic profession in this country. First, directly on those who came into immediate contact with him; and second, and indirectly, on those who were influenced in turn by the truths and principles these visitors carried away with them. The extent of this has been so great that it is safe to affirm it surpasses that made by any other or all others of his contemporaries. So quietly and unostentatiously has this process of private teaching been going on, that it may be there are few who are aware that we are indebted to this man more than to any others, for what homœopathy is in this land to-day.

And then, further, he has taught us by contributions to the literature of our school, to an extent surpassing those of any man. The importance of these contributions is equal to their extent. The writings of no other man are so compact with thought, so abounding with facts contributed to our knowledge, with suggestions of relationships of these to other facts and to each other, so luminous with the effulgence of genius, so astonishing by the great labors they disclose. The wealth of thought and suggestion in these is so great, that in view of it one of the ablest masters of our school, Haynel, said to me—"Other men are constantly catching up the sparks which Hering is constantly throwing off, and expanding them into great fires, and passing them off as their own." And this is true. Take from the literature of homœopathy the contributions of Hering, and you have robbed it of half its wealth.

And now, gentlemen, I thank you for honoring me with the pleasant duty of tendering our united homage to our loved master and friend. While doing this I am assured that in view of his life long labors and their results, of his never failing loyalty to truth, his unwearied and incessant endeavors for its advancement and defence, of his ever generous, abundant and free instructions to those who were in need, and above all, of his spotless example as physician, citizen and friend, you will join me as with one heart, while I say to him—
WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

And to you gentlemen, I would say, when you regard whatever in his character, life-work and devotion to truth, that which is most worthy, remember the homage which his great and good heart craves most of all from you, is contained in an obedience to this brief exhortation—GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE.

The third Toast was *Homœopathy*, to which Prof. Henry N. Guernsey was called upon to respond.

PROF. GUERNSEY spoke as follows:—

Gentlemen:—It is with feelings of veneration that I rise to respond to the toast *Homœopathy*—that cause for which our distinguished colleague, Dr. Constantine Hering, in honor of whose jubilæum we have assembled to-night, has devoted so much of his lifetime, so much of the severest labor, mental and physical, and for the advancement of which he has accomplished so much, that his name must be co-identical with the science for all coming time. For centuries back there has been a constant reform and progress for the better in all the arts and sciences. The great religious reformation of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, arising after the important discovery of the art of printing, were to be followed by reforms of none the less value to the human race.

Less than a century ago, people in every part of the civilized world were feeling the need of *another* reform—a grand reform in *medicine*. The barbarous modes of practice then in use, involving nauseous and poisonous doses, deleterious and disgusting mixtures, that loved ones were compelled to swallow, resulting in more harm than good, conspired to cause a cry to go forth: “O that the Lord would send us something—some little sweet something, that we may take when sick to make us well again!”

This prayer, so earnestly uttered, the Lord has answered, in sending us *homœopathy*.

Homœopathy is a divine institution, and should be most sacredly held in trust by all its votaries, even as it was held by Samuel Hahnemann, whom the Lord deputed to impart it, and by his faithful disciple, whom we have brought here to-night, to show our gratitude, and whom we delight to honor. Homœopathy has shed a new light upon the whole medical world, and is everywhere making apparent its beneficial results. It teaches us that diseases are not entities—that they are not open to the natural sight, touch or taste, neither are they subject to the effects of weights or measures.

The scalpel cannot reveal, nor can the microscope behold them. All diseases are morbid effects of disordered dynamic forces, and to cure such an effect we must seek a dynamic force from the medical kingdom, whose subtlety in degree and quality *equals* the subtlety in degree and quality of that dynamic force, producing the disease. *This, and this alone, is homœopathy*. This science, based upon the law *similia similibus curantur*, is as true as the Bible! It comes from the same source, and it must ever shine as the great beacon-light in medical science, as the Bible is the great beacon-light in the science of theology. It must ever continue to heal more and more the suffering of the human race, as we come more and more under its real influence. It must ever and ever continue to overcome all other methods of medical practice, until homœopathy reigns supreme, as the grand and only law of cure for all manner of diseases in all varieties of living creatures.

The fourth regular Toast was, *Our Visiting Friends*, to which Dr. Carroll Dunham, of Irvington-on-Hudson, N. Y., President of the American Institute of Homœopathy, was called upon to respond.

DR. DUNHAM spoke as follows.—

Gentlemen of Philadelphia:—An invitation to Philadelphia, the Mecca of American medicine, and especially of American homœopathic medicine, could not fail to meet a cordial response from every homœopathic physician. An invitation from so numerous a body of our colleagues, representing so worthily our schools, our literature and our press, and on an occasion so interesting as the celebration of the jubilee of our venerated colleague, Dr. Hering, so touches us, that I am sure I utter the sentiments of all of my associates, when I thank you, in their name and my own, with my whole heart, for this opportunity, to unite with you in your graceful testimonial of homage and love to our honored friend.

If the opportunity had been as great as your large-hearted hospitality, and could have embraced the wide expanse of our country, these walls could not have contained the legion of those who would have come up hither to honor themselves, by honoring your venerable guest.

Gentlemen, this banquet, which your hospitality and good taste have crowded with viands from the ends of the earth, and decorated with flowers of every variety of loveliness and fragrance, constrains me to speak of the banquet at which our friend Dr. Hering has been entertaining us all, and all of our school in every part of the world, for a far longer time than my personal memory can recall.

For forty years the feast of reason has been spread in his study. The bill of fare, in our English and in his native German, has been widely distributed. The strong meat of scientific reasoning, the choicest fruits of keen and sagacious observation, the wine of a cheerful, hopeful confidence in the unity and consistency of natural law, the salt and spices of a pungent wit and a wholesome satire, the milk of human kindness and the flowers of poesy, have loaded the table, at which every student has met with a princely welcome, the only condition being that he should *be hungry and should eat*.

Twenty-eight years have passed since I, a hungry student, knocked at Dr. Hering's door, asking for mental food, and daring to expect at best a crust, or a soup-ticket directing me to some college. I was welcomed to his festive board, and there I have feasted ever since.

There is this peculiarity about his banquet, that, whereas, *here*, what was order an hour ago is now confusion and a mass of *débris*, *his* table, spread for forty years, is now fuller and richer than ever, though so many have partaken of his cheer! Nay, he has assured me that though guests come lean and hungry, *as I did*, and take their fill, as I did, yet they rather add to than diminish his store.

To one thing I *know* they add—to the blessed consciousness of having done great good, of having made the rough paths smooth for multitudes of his colleagues, and through them, to multitudes of the people; a consciousness which, under whatever trials, must gladden these years of our dear friend's life!

At a time when many men give up their labors, Dr. Hering is crowding his table with choicer viands than he has ever offered us; and his welcome is still extended, as heartily as ever, to those who hunger for knowledge.

Gratefully acknowledging the courtesy of your entertainment, we utter our fervent gratitude to him in whose honor you give it, and pray for his health and welfare among you in the many years which we hope are still in store for him.

The fifth and last Toast was to *The Press*, to which Francis Wells, Esq., of the Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin* was called upon to respond.

MR. WELLS, after a humorous opening in his usual graceful style, referred to the career of Doctor Hering in highly eulogistic terms. He praised him as a man who had espoused a principle and followed an idea for a life time, working for it unceasingly and binding all his strength and energy, in youth and in old age, to effect its elucidation and insure its success, until his courage and ability, his constancy and consistency had won for him the acknowledgment of *Facile princeps* from all his fellows.

Mr. Wells then referred, in sharp terms, to what he called the deplorable condition of the hospital attached to the Hahnemann College of Philadelphia, and upbraided the physicians of the homœopathic school for allowing it to thus remain. He called upon them to signalize the occasion they were then celebrating by a determination to bestir themselves and make this hospital creditable to the school and the equal of the allopathic hospitals of the city.

Mr. Wells' remarks regarding the hospital and its management called forth sharp responses from Drs. J. W. Dowling, S. Lilienthal and S. P. Burdick, of New York, who gave glowing accounts of the flourishing condition of the institutions under homœopathic control in the city of New York, and especially of the homœopathic charity hospital on Ward's Island, and from Dr. Carroll Dunham, who counselled a vigorous and united effort, as the only means of success in securing and successfully conducting hospitals, dispensaries, colleges, and other similar institutions.

Upon the conclusion of these speeches and a rejoinder from Mr. Wells, the company separated, in the unanimous opinion that a delightful and memorable evening had been both pleasantly and profitably spent, and after many hand-shakings and adieus wended their several ways towards their homes.

THE JUBILEE DAY. Thursday, March 22d, 1876.

On the morning of Thursday, March 22d, the following gentlemen assembled at the office of Dr. Hering, No. 112 North Twelfth St., viz.: Dr. Detwiler of Easton, Pa., Dr. Romig of Allentown, Pa., former associates of Dr. Hering and co-laborers with him in the old Allentown Academy, and Dr. J. Jeanes of Philada., his old and valued friend; Drs. John F. Gray, H. M. Smith, A. K. Hills, Profs. Burdick, Dowling, and Winch of New York City; Dr. P. P. Wells of Brooklyn; Prof. A. R. Thomas, and Drs. F. E. Boericke, and J. C. Guernsey of Philada.

After a hearty interchange of mutual greetings, and friendly compliments to the venerable Doctor, they proceeded by the following appropriate ceremonies to acknowledge this, the day of his medical Jubilee.

COMPLIMENTARY RESOLUTIONS OF THE HAHNEMANN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

Dr. A. K. Hills then presented the following Complimentary Resolutions of the Hahnemann Academy of Medicine, of New York.

WHEREAS, Our worthy colleague and esteemed honorary member, Constantine Hering, M.D., of Philadelphia, will celebrate to-morrow, the 23d inst., his "golden anniversary" of graduation in medicine, and

WHEREAS, The Hahnemann Academy of Medicine of the City of New York, the oldest Medical Society of our school now in existence, desires representation in doing honor to his great name at this time, therefore

Resolved, That the members of this Academy extend most cordial congratulations to "Father Hering" on this memorable occasion.

Resolved, That the labors of our venerable confrere in his especial department of Materia Medica, are by this Academy fully appreciated.

Resolved, That as the *masters* teach by example as well as by precept, the untiring industry and self-abnegation of our honored father should be an incentive to all young practitioners to "go and do likewise," that they may *not* live in vain, but may contribute to the good of humanity as he has done.

Resolved, That the present high standard of our literature is largely due to his personal effort, and that it received an impetus from his publications which it could have derived from no other source—commencing with his translation of Jahr's Manual, published in Allentown, Pa., in 1837.

Resolved, That as the works upon which our colleague is now engaged, will be of priceless value to the profession, and through it to the world of sick and suffering of the human family, we sincerely hope that he may continue in the health and be blessed with the strength necessary to enable him to complete them, with many subsequent additions.

Resolved, That this Academy renew their assurances of esteem and veneration, with the hope that he may yet celebrate his natal "centennial."

Resolved, That these resolutions be signed by the President and Secretary of the Academy, and a copy of the same be presented to Dr. Hering upon the occasion above indicated.

Rooms of the Hahnemann Academy, New York, March 22d, 1876.

ALFRED K. HILLS, M.D., *President.*

CLARA C. PLIMPTON, M.D., *Secretary.*

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS.

Dr. John F. Gray, of New York, then addressed Dr. Hering as follows:

Venerable Colleague:—The Homœopathic Medical Society of the State of New York, at its annual meeting in February 1875, made provision, by unanimous vote, for an act of homage to you on their part, to be fulfilled on this your Academic Jubilee. This act legally expresses the sentiment and will toward you of all of the regular physicians of our school in that State.

The President and Secretary of the Society, in accordance with your wish (by which I am deeply honored and gratified) have made me its delegate to your household; and thus I have the happiness to greet you, in the name of every member of our branch of the profession in my native State, and to congratulate you, your family and your personal disciples, the world over, on the coming of this your semi-centennial day, in circumstances of unsullied joy to us all! This glad hour finds you in vigor of body and mind, in domestic felicity and in the full exercise of your beneficent art!

For these blessings, which are not of human concession, we reverently thank the Divine Source and Giver of all things.

In compliance with the vote of the State Medical Society, the Senate of the University of the State of New York is this morning assembled at the Capitol in Albany, and, as I am instructed by a telegram from its Secretary, just now delivered, it has within this hour decreed and executed the honorary diploma of Doctor of Medicine, for your acceptance. Moreover I am glad to congratulate you on your being the first physician on whom a jubilee degree has been conferred in the New World. Let us hope that this kindly and useful academic usage, now transplanted to American soil, may strike deep root here and abide with our successors forever.

Besides this purely Academic Doctorate from New York, like honors are placed in my hands for your acceptance from the University of Boston, by its faculty of Medicine, and from the Homœopathic Medical Colleges of New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago and St. Louis.

This gratifying office has doubtless been bestowed upon me, dear old friend, because I happen to be the last American Survivor of that small band of pioneers in Homœopathy whom you found at work here on your auspicious arrival in our country. I discharge it with gladness on my own account, for our long intercourse has been to me a perpetual felicity, and with reverent emotion in behalf also of our departed companions Gram, Hull, Channing and Wilson, who warmly welcomed your coming to our battle front, forty-three years ago.

Learned and worthy leader, your affectionate juniors are here to justify, by their united personal testimony and by the academic documents we now lay before you, the trusts committed to you at Wurzburg, on the 23d of March,

1826. Then, by the hand of the illustrious Schoenlein, your own venerable seniors gave you, in your first doctorate, your life-chart and its perdurable responsibilities, with their own benediction and welcome into the sacred guild of Medicine.

To-day, the 23d of March, 1876, your juniors do not attempt to bestow franchise, nor impose tasks of any kind upon you, but only to testify to the manes of your predecessors and to the world of our time, that the initiation and benison accorded to you on your professional birthday, have been most amply vindicated by each step and by the whole course of your studious, ingenuous and useful career.

But words of encomium, however deftly composed, or phrases of professional panegyric, however justly merited by you, or selected by us, cannot satisfactorily express the sentiments which your ceaseless energy as a leader in reform and an instructor in our glorious vocation, and your benignant character as a citizen have engraven, for all time, in each of our hearts!

We gather around you to-day, from our scattered and distant homes, dear elder brother, to present to you and to your posterity our congratulations and these documents, executed by those whom we represent, as indelible proofs to you and to them of the exalted estimation in which your life-course is held by that branch of the medical profession which you have so greatly enriched by your diligent labors and by your ever-teeming genius.

And, thus feeling, we join our fraternal hands in cordial jubilee around your family altar, craving from Heaven a long continuance of your present vigor of mind and body, and from yourself, your personal blessing!

HONORS TO DR. JOHN F. GRAY.

After the presentation speech of Dr. Gray, Dr. A. K. Hills, of New York, Recording Secretary of the Homœopathic Medical Society of the State of New York, requested Dr. Gray's attention for a moment, remarking that perhaps he was aware that the society which he represented, had, at its last meeting, unanimously recommended him, Dr. Gray, to the Regents, to receive the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of the State of New York. Also that he had the pleasure of announcing that he had obtained Diplomas from the various Colleges of our School in this Country, similar to those just presented to Dr. Hering, and requested Dr. Carroll Dunham to present the same.

ADDRESS BY DR. CARROLL DUNHAM TO DR. JOHN F. GRAY.

DR. GRAY:—By a rare and happy coincidence, we are permitted to offer a tribute of respect and affection to-day to Dr. Hering, whom you have so worthily designated as "the chief of our school," and to yourself, whom we salute as the first and oldest of American homœopathic physicians. Dr. Hering celebrates to-day the Fiftieth Anniversary of his entrance into the medical profession; and, six days hence, your friends will congratulate you on the occurrence of your jubilee. The Homœopathic Medical Society of the State of New York, wishing to express their respect for Dr. Hering and yourself on this interesting

occasion, nominated you both for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of the State of New York. And the Regents of the University, to do especial honor to Dr. Hering, are, at this moment, as we learn by telegram, convened in special session for the purpose of confirming these degrees. You have already, in eloquent and fitting words, announced this fact to Dr. Hering, and, representing the homœopathic physicians of New York, and as President of the First Board of State Medical Examiners, you have conferred upon him this honorable degree. In the name of the President of the Homœopathic Medical Society of the State of New York, whose unavoidable absence I regret, I have the honor to confer upon you the same degree, which will have, I am sure, additional value in your eyes, that it is received on the date of Dr. Hering's Jubilee.

Embodying as you do, in your professional career, the entire period of the existence of Homœopathy in America, your colleagues regard you with reverence. Seeing you, after so long a career, still actively engaged not only in the practical work of the physician, but taking a deep interest in the advancement of Medical Science; and lending the weight of your experience and sound judgment to the elevation of medical education and to the vindication of medical freedom, your colleagues, who are, all of us, your juniors, wish to testify their appreciation of your laborious and honorable professional life and their affectionate regard for yourself. Accordingly, the various Homœopathic Colleges of our country, speaking for our branch of the profession, and as the guardians of medical education in which you take so deep an interest, have conferred upon you the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine. I have the honor of handing you the diplomas of the Homœopathic Medical Colleges of Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland, Chicago and St. Louis, and of the Pulte Medical College of Cincinnati, and of the Boston University School of Medicine.

May you still enjoy, among us, many active, happy years, surveying with satisfaction, the growth of that large branch of the medical profession of which you were the first American representative, and receiving the respectful homage of your colleagues!

ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIALS FOR DR. HERING.

A large number of people called upon Dr. Hering during the day to offer him their congratulations and expressions of good will and kindliness.

He was also the recipient of very many letters and elegant floral offerings from old friends and patrons, who thus were proud to do honor to one who for so many long years they had borne in grateful remembrance. Certainly he hath now his just reward.

A TELEGRAM FROM CALIFORNIA.

This telegram was also received :

" San Francisco, March 22d, 1876.

Constantine Hering, M.D., 112 N. Twelfth St., Phila.

Your friends here rejoice to present their congratulations to you

on the Fiftieth Anniversary of your graduation. To no other living man do they think the meed of praise more due than to you, the founder of Homœopathy in America, whether they regard your skill as a physician, your genius as a philosopher, or your worth as a man. They wish you health and happiness for many years to come."

(Signed) " J. H. FLOTO,
 " M. J. WERDER,
 " J. N. ECKEL,
 " A. A. THIESE,
 " C. W. BREYFOGLE,
 " E. S. BREYFOGLE,
 " WM. BOERICKE."

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. HERING AND AN ACCOUNT OF HIS PROVINGS.

CONSTANTINE HERING, M.D., the subject of this sketch, was born in Oschatz, Saxony, on January 1st, 1800. He who was to lend such a helping hand to the inauguration of a new and the true system of medical practice, was born at the opening of the Century which was to witness so great a reform in Medical Science. From his earliest age he exhibited an insatiable thirst for knowledge, and spent many of the leisure hours of his boyhood in wandering about the country, from hill-top to vale, busily employed in exploring nature's secrets. While attending the Classical School at Zittau, from 1811 to 1817, he made a large and valuable collection of minerals, herbaria, skulls and bones of animals. He studied medicine at the Surgical Academy of Dresden and the University of Leipzig. While thus employed, he was engaged to publish a work against homœopathy, which was to be its death-blow. Having occasion to consult some works of Hahnemann at this time, his attention was attracted by some statements which he found there. Deeply impressed by them, he stayed his hand in the demolishing work, and determined to investigate the matter and ascertain for himself its truth or falsity. The result of his research, his firm conviction of the truth of the law of cure as embodied in the formula *similia similibus curantur*, is known to the whole world. With undiminished ardor he kept up his study in this direction, and wrote as his thesis for graduation "*De Medicina Futura*," in which he ably and resolutely maintained the doctrines of Hahnemann. On March 23d, 1826, he received his degree of Doctor of Medicine, from the University of Würzburg. Shortly after, in the May following, he was appointed instructor in Mathematics and the Natural Sciences in an Academy, Blochman's Institute, in Dresden. After remaining here for some months he was appointed to go to Surinam under favor of the king, to make researches and collections in Zoölogy. He consented to do this and sailed for South America. While there he pursued the study of homœopathy, practiced it to some extent, and wrote some articles for the *Homœopathic Archives*. This latter proceeding was brought to the notice of the king in such a way as to cause him to direct Dr. Hering to attend to the duties of his appointment and to let outside matters alone. By return mail Hering sent in a report of his accounts in full, and resigning his official position he

began to practice in Paramaribo. A few years later he sailed for home, and on his way thither, landed in Philadelphia, in the January of 1833. Here he found a good introduction of homœopathy had been made by the late George H. Bute, M.D., and at the solicitation of William Geisse, an importing merchant, he remained in that city, and soon acquired a large and lucrative practice. Dr. Wm. Wesselhœft, who by that time had established homœopathy on a firm footing in Northumberland and Lehigh Counties, in Pennsylvania, hearing that Dr. Hering had arrived in Philadelphia, came immediately to see him. He proposed to Dr. Hering his plan of establishing a homœopathic school at Allentown, which was to be supported by a stock company. Dr. Hering promised to remove to Allentown and to assist in the school as soon as he had guaranteed to him "a salary equal to that of any first-class clergyman in Allentown." The stock company was formed, the salary provided, and Dr. Hering went to Allentown, to remain only two or three years. At the expiration of this time, the school had to be given up, and he returned to Philadelphia, where he has since lived.

Ever since Dr. Hering became a receiver of the doctrines of Hahnemann, he has been a faithful worker for their development and promulgation, that mankind might be benefited thereby. The vast amount of use he has been to the cause is inexpressible, and the only conceivable manner of even forming an idea of the same, would be to take away from homœopathy all that has been done for it by every one else, Hahnemann included,—could such a thing be done.

AN ACCOUNT OF DR. HERING'S PROVINGS.

STAPF published his *Archives* about three times a year, and made it a rule to give a new proving with each number issued. The offer was made to Dr. Hering to take part in all the new provings.

The first proving the doctor sent to Stapf, was one of MEZEREUM. It was inserted in his collection, printed years after, in 1825. See the *Archives*, Vol. 4, No. 2, p. 126, where Stapf says: The signatures H. and W. signify students of medicine in Leipzig. A few years later H. (Hering) was in South America and W. (Wahle) in Rome.

The next proving Stapf wanted was of SABADILLA. See the same volume of the *Archives*, No. 3, p. 122, where the former students appear as young physicians. In the next number, Vol. V, No. 1, SABINA appeared, in which Wahle figured alone; Hering's proving having arrived a few days too late for publication. The same thing occurred with COLCHICUM.

A Prover's Society had been formed in 1824, and the plan made to publish in each number a drug from the mineral, vegetable and animal kingdoms. For the first number were prepared PLUMBUM AC., PARIS and CANTHARIDES. For the second, JODIUM, ARUM MACULATUM and ONISCUS ASELLUS. For the third, SELENIUM, SECALE and a German viper were in view.

While thus engaged, Dr. Hering obtained his diploma, on the 23d of March, 1826, after passing full examinations and public debatings; and on the anniversary of Hahnemann's birthday he received the appointment of teacher of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in Blochman's Academy, in Dresden, founded for the nobility and under the care and protection of the first minister of the king.

A "rich uncle from Surinam" visiting his old home, and being intimately acquainted with the father of Dr. H., induced the principal of the academy to propose a trip to that famous part of the coast of South America, with the particular object of completing the zoölogical collection of the academy. This proposition was accepted with the condition that he might add a friend who had great skill in preparing plants and making herbariums.

With passports as belonging to the Saxon legacies, both left in November, 1826.

All the provings which had only been commenced, were handed to Dr. Trinks, of Dresden, for his friend Dr. Hartlaub, who had

employed Hering three years before as scribe. Hartlaub completed the *Plumbum* and *Cantharides*, and commenced his *Materia Medica*. Of all the other provings, Hartlaub only published *Sabina*, Vol. I, 323–326, and in the third volume, Paris, p. 149.

The others, mostly fragments, *ANT. TART. ARGENTUM*, *ARISTOLOCHIA*, *CLEMATIS*, *BELLAD.*, *CALTHA PALUSTRIS*, *DEMATIU*, *GEUM RIVALE*, *NOSTOC*, *OPIUM*, *RUTA*, *TANACETUM* and *VIOLA TRICOLOR*, were partly printed in after years, and part of them yet await completion.

While in Surinam, the doctor's main object was to get the poison of one of the largest snakes on the continent, the *Trigonocephalus Lachesis*. It was finally obtained on July 28th, 1828, preparations were made and provings commenced with the first and following triturations, and printed verbatim in the form of day-books (but not until three years later) in Stapf's *Archives*, X. 2, p. 1, with additional remarks from January 18th, 1830.

In regard to the provings of *Lachesis*, it is worthy of note that in a paper on homœopathy read before the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Association, by John Dell'Orto, M.D., a distinguished old-school practitioner of New Orleans, and published in the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, Vol. II, No. 6, May, 1875, the following paragraph occurs: "I could speak of many of them (homœopathic physicians), but I will limit myself to a well-known German in America, Dr. Constantine Hering, of Philadelphia, whose fine works and experiments on the poison of the *Trigonocephalus Lachesis* of the West Indies, gave him a world-renowned and well-deserved fame."

During the six full years of his stay in South America, he added also to our *Materia Medica* the famous poison spider which he called *THERIDION CURASSAVICUM*; a lizard, the *ASCALABOTES*, supposed to be poisonous; two noted vegetable poisons, *CALADIUM SEGUINUM*, *JAMBOSZ* and *JATROPHA*, and some observations on *SOLANUM MAMMOSUM*, *SPIGELIA ANTHELMINTICA* and *VANILLA*. The proving of the *SELENIUM* was continued, and additions collected to the symptoms of *ALUMINA* and *PHOS. AC.*, and the provings of *PSORINUM* were commenced.

After his departure from South America and arrival in Philadelphia, one of the first provings made was of *MEPHITIS*, the skunk, and the *ICTODES FETIDA*, skunk cabbage, and as soon as obtainable, the *CROTALUS* was proved.

Being lucky enough to secure possession of a mad dog, he took

the saliva while the animal was alive, and made the first proving thereof on himself, using the triturations.

A small Prover's Society having been formed, he proposed the proving of the globules obtained from Lappe (the highly esteemed apothecary in Neudietendorf) under the name of *BRUCEA ANTI-DYSENTERICA*. It was considered very doubtful by all the provers whether such high-potencies could produce any symptoms, and the correctness of the name *Brucea* for what was formerly called *Angustura falsa* was much doubted. Dr. Hering had proved for the first and only time in his life, globules of *Theridion*, which he had prepared by potentizing from the tincture to the thirtieth centesimal, and the effects were such that he never would make another proving with them; but he still had some doubts, because during the preparation of the potencies, he might have inhaled all the thirty potencies, one after the other. He still hoped to get some symptoms from the *Brucea*, and to make an analysis by provings, in order to ascertain whether it contained *Strychnine* or whether it could be the bark of the *Nux vomica* tree. Getting no symptoms himself, and those of the other provers not being sufficiently characteristic, the provings obtained were published by Stapf in the *Archives*, XIV, No. 2, p. 177, with the view of inducing others to make investigations, but without such a result.

The provings of *Lachesis* and *Crotalus* were completed in Allentown, Penna. The provings of *CALC. PHOS. ACID.* was made there; likewise, *CALC. PHOS. BASICA* was fully proved, and the proving of *HIPPOMANES EQUORUM* and *CASTOR EQUORUM* commenced. Many additional provings were also made of *KALMIA*, *NICANDRA* and *VIBURNUM ACERIFOLIUM*.

In the *Correspondenz-Blatt*—a little paper started to save the enormous postal charges—were published the arranged symptoms of *BARYTA MURIATICA*, August 31st, 1836; a condensed collection of the provings of *LAPIS MAGNETICUS*, overlooked by Jahr; *CISTUS CANADENSIS* or *Helianthus caradupe*, according to the provings of G. H. Bute, and *MEPHITIS PUTORIUS*, January 18th, 1837; *POTHOS* or *ICTODES FETIDA*, and *CALC. PHOS. ACIDA*, February 3d, 1873; *SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS*, by G. H. Bute, and *DAPHNE INDICA*, January 22d, 1873, and *Apocynum cannabinum* from Gray's Journal. Many indigenous plants were also proved in Allentown, such as *PHYTOLACCA*, *GELSEMINUM*, *GYMNOCLADUS*, etc.

Returning to Philadelphia in 1839, the chemical family of salt-formers, of which Iodine has since been fully proved, were selected

by the doctor in preference to others, and CHLORINE, BROMINE and FLUORIC ACID were added to our *Materia Medica*.

After the formation of a large Prover's Union, he proposed a new proving of FERRUM METALLICUM, and was enabled to get its nearest relatives, KOBALT and NICCOLUM, in their purity from one of our first chemists. He instituted the provings of these to solve the question whether *there are characteristics from nearly related families*. To get an answer to the question: *Can we draw conclusions from the constituents of a chemical composition as to the effects of the chemical unit*, induced him to recommend to Dr. Neidhard the proving of the CINNABAR, and, on account of the surprising effects of the *Calcarea oxalica*, the proving of OXALIC ACID.

For the same reason Dr. Hering commenced the provings of OXYGEN in 1841, to which he added in 1845, the year of his tour to Germany, the newly discovered OZONE. Schönlein, the discoverer, considered it to be similar to Chlorine. Berzelius decided it to be an allotropic form of Oxygen. The symptoms could have decided this before if the analysis by proving had been developed enough. The same was the case with a proving the doctor made with the *Thallia* of Owen, a supposed new element between magnesia and calcarea. The careful provings had shown its great similarity to both these, when a British chemist discovered that it was a hitherto unknown mixture of both.

Dr. Hering considering it his duty to collect and translate the provings made in the United States, and to be the mediator between the new and the old home of our art, had not only sent the experimental proving of the so-called Brucea to Stapf, but also Bute's Sanguinaria and the Mephitis of the Allentown provers, and later the Fluor. ac. published in the first volume of the *Transactions of the American Institute of Homœopathy*, by Dr. Jacob Jeanes. In 1849 and 1850 he sent to one of the best journals we ever had in our school, Buchner and Nusser's *Allgemeine Homœopathische Zeitung*, Augsburg, 8, the arrangement of the symptoms of Castor equorum proved at the Allentown Academy, and Dr. G. H. Bute's proving of Mancinella (*Hippomanes mancinella*). JELLURIUM was proved as the next to the Selenium and *Tetradymit* as a crystal; PALLADIUM as the next relation to Platina; OSMIUM as belonging to the same family, and LITHIUM as the next missing link to Potassa and Natrium.

In 1851, being asked by a German publisher to do so, he commenced his *Amerikanische Arznei Prüfungen*. This work contained

twelve provings of more or less importance. Of these remedies GLONOINE is becoming of more and more importance every year. The provings of the VIRUS APIUM comprised also the full natural history of the insect ; the provings of the New York Society, augmented by a large number of new provings with the pure poison, the observations of Rev. Longstreth, which are of the highest importance, and as many cases of the effects following the sting as could be obtained by daily labor within the course of a year. The reports of symptoms following the sting, and what symptoms had been cured, have settled one of the most important scientific questions, viz.: *Can the symptoms from inoculation with animal poisons, the zymotic symptoms, be used in our Materia Medica, alongside of the symptoms observed from our alcoholic preparations taken inwardly.* The greatest of all critical objections, *never made by any critic*, but in the mind of the prover of Lachesis, since 1828, has been answered affirmatively and to his full satisfaction.

The book further contained translations of the provings of BENZOIC ACID by Jeanes, and the OXALIC ACID by Neidhard, both indispensable in heart-disease ; Joslin's masterly proving of RUMEX CRISPUS in translation ; the Allentown proving of Kalmia ; a completed proving of MILLEFOLIUM, and one of JATROPHA CURCAS ; new provings of the old polychrests CEPA and ALOES, the latter for the first time proved with the genuine Aloes soccotrina, brought here by the physician on the man-of-war sent by the United States to the Sultan of Muscat ; the animal substances, the old and famous HIPPOMANES EQUORUM, and the blue blood of the SIMULUS CYCLOPS or the Xiphosura americana, in which a careful analysis had shown copper as a constituent of the blood, and but a trace of iron. The publisher, provided he got a second part like the first, without remuneration, sent postage free, was willing to publish a second volume, but he died suddenly and his heirs did not ask for a continuation.

LITHIUM has been proved since, and ARSENIC in the metallic state, particularly in the hydrogen combination, in 1851 the ARSENIATE OF LIME, the BERYLLIUM, the CALC. SULPHURICA and the MERCUR. SULPH., together with additional provings of ARG. NIT., BARYTA and NUX MOSCHATA. The proving of FORMICA was an attempt to get something similar to the Apium virus, but it has not yet been used sufficiently to gain the importance of a polychrest. With a change of the genius epidemicus, it may become of more importance. The *possibility* of a scientific Materia Medica

has gained by every proving, but the next generation may have to *establish it*.

In reference to the provings of Platina referred to in the foregoing article, the following beautiful letter to Stapf will be found well worthy of perusal:

Seinem Freunde Doctor Ernst Stapf in Naumburg.

Als Göthe die große Prachtstufe Platinaerz aus der Sammlung des Herzogs an Döbereiner schickte, weil gesagt worden war: was könnte dieß Metall nützen, wenn es besser gekannt wäre! gab er dem glücklichen Chemiker die Weisung: Untersuche, daß es nütze. Döbereiner fühlte sich reich wie ein Britte, begeistert wie ein Franke, selig wie ein Deutscher, und ging an's Werk. Seine Forschungen lieferten dem großen Strome der Kenntnisse werthvolle Beiträge; und als er dem Herzog das Feuerzeug überbrachte, das reinste, höchste, was der Menscheng Geist noch erfunden, wo der leichteste aller Stoffe im schwersten die Glut entzündet, da waren sie mitander zufrieden. Sie ahnten es nicht, was für ein ganz anderes Feuer schon durch das Opfern der Platinastufe war entzündet worden, ein Feuer, was wohlthätig fortflammen wird bis an's Ende der Tage. Denn Du dachtest — und ein großer Gedanke war es: Kann Gold und Silber in Verreibung mit solcher entschiedenen Macht auf Gesunde und Kranke wirken, so muß es auch Platina. Das trieb Dich hin zur neuen Quelle in des Chemikers Laboratorium. Und er wog Dir von seinem Ueberflusse zwanzig Gran zu. Du forschtest und erfandest und es gelang Dir es in krystallinische Staubform zu bringen. Du prüftest an Dir, den Deinigen, Deinem Freunde, dessen Gattin, und es offenbarte sich das neue Bild der Platinawirkung mit so scharfen, treuen Zügen, daß es jeder Untersuchung der schärfsten Beobachter Stand halten wird, so lange es denkende Menschen gibt. Tausende sind schon durch Platin geheilt worden, und von Jahr zu Jahr, in selbem Maaße als der Aerzte mehr werden, die durch klares Denken zur wissenschaftlichen Freiheit gelangen, werden ihrer mehr geheilt. Wohin sind jene 117 Gran, welche später Gmelin verbrauchte mit Hunden und Kaninchen, und wo die Früchte dieser vergeuteten Mühen?

Du bahntest mit der Platina zugleich auch den Weg einer neuen Form der Bereitung, die der Niederschläge in Staubform, ein wesentlicher Fortschritt beim Erforschen an Gesunden, wie bei der Anwendung an Kranken. Sobald wie die Chemiker dergleichen mehr bereiten lernten, J. B. Buchner darauf drang, sie einzuführen, und Mayerhofer seine vortrefflichen Untersuchungen anstellte, ward es eine bleibende Errungenschaft.

Und weiter noch wurde Deines Gedankens Frucht getragen. Als dazumal das erste Archivheft bei Reclam in Leipzig erschien, brachte ein armer junger Mensch seine letzten Groschen, sah darin: Platina, las, und es ward ihm zu Muthe wie einst in der Platina Heimath Balboa und seinem Gefolge, als sie auf die Höhen des Gebirges kamen und die ersten Europäer das weite Meer der andern Seite der Welt erschauten. „Jedes Metall wirkt, und jedes eigenthümlich.“ Damit

war Alles gegeben. Nur Arbeit, und die Arzneilehre mußte Naturwissenschaft werden. Das blieb der Gedanke seines Lebens. Er ist seitdem alt geworden und reich, und sendet heute seinen Gruß Dir, dem er dieß alles zu danken hatte.

Und gelangen diese Worte der Liebe zu Dir, so stelle sich auch die Hoffnung zur Seite: Siehe wie der Geister Weberschiffchen fliegen und ein Tritt so viele Verbindungen regt, wie Göthe Döbereiner, dieser Dir, Du mir Anregung wurdest, so kann auch dieß Wort hier wirken, wo wir's weder wissen noch ahnen; kann einen Helden erwecken der Tage die da kommen, der Tage in denen der Drache des Vorurtheils und des Irrwahns erlegt wird. Darum, so wie wir bisher gewirkt im guten Glauben, so wollen wir's fort und fort: eine Zeit wird kommen, die wird gerecht sein. Unsere edle Kunst wird sich mit klarer, sicherer Wissenschaft vermählen, und die Aerzte werden glücklicher sein und glücklicher machen. Unser Werk wird nimmer untergehen, weil es die wohlthätigste Kunst fördert und zwar durch die strengste Forschung, und weil es dadurch dem Höheren angehört, dem Ewigen, das da war, ist und sein wird.

Somit gehab Dich wohl.

Dein Constantin Hering.

Philadelphia, den 28. August 1856.

Translation by Dr. Knerr.

TO HIS FRIEND DR. ERNST STAFF IN NAUMBURG.

WHEN Goethe sent to Döbereiner those precious pieces of pure Platina from the Duke's collection, it having been said how useful this metal might become if better known, he gave to the delighted chemist this charge: "Examine, that good may come of it." Döbereiner felt rich as a Briton, elated as a Frenchman, happy as a German; and went to work. His investigations furnished useful contributions to the great stream of science.

When he put into the Duke's hands the igniting-machine, the purest, highest that mind of man ever invented, in which the lightest of the elements ignites a flame in the heaviest, each had reason to be satisfied with the other. Little did they dream what other flame had already been kindled through the sacrifice of the Platina ore, a flame which will continue to burn beneficially to the end of time. For thou didst think—and a great thought it was—if gold and silver in trituration can act so powerfully on the well and the sick, why not Platina?

It was this that drew thee towards the new source in the chemist's laboratory.

From his abundance he weighed thee twenty grains; and thou wert successful in reducing it to a crystalline powder. Thou didst prove on thyself and thine, on thy friend and his wife; and the new image of Platina revealed itself in lines so sharp and true as

to bear examination from the keenest observer as long as there are thinking men. Thousands have already been made well by Platina, and in the same ratio as the number of physicians who gain scientific freedom through accurate thinking, increases from year to year, more will be healed.

Where are the 117 grains which later were used on dogs and rabbits by Gmelin? Where the fruits of this bootless labor?

With the Platina thou didst at the same time pave the way to a new manner of preparation, that of precipitating metals in dust-form; an essential advance in the proving on the healthy as well as in the treatment of the sick. As soon as chemists had learned to make more preparations of a similar nature, and J. B. Buchner had urged their introduction, and Mayerhofer had made his excellent investigations (microscopical), this remained a permanent legacy. And still further were carried the fruits of thy thought. The first number of the Archives appeared, issued by Reclam in Leipzig. To purchase it, a poor young man parted with his last groschen. In it he found Platina; he read, and felt as did Balboa and his followers when, in the home of Platina, they reached the heights and first saw the broad ocean on the other side of the continent.

"Each metal acts, and each in its peculiar way." These words were all sufficient. Work! and *Materia Medica* must become a natural science. This remained the ruling idea of his life. He has since grown old, and rich in all good gifts, and greets to-day, thee, to whom he owes all this. And if these words of love do reach thee, let also hope stand by thy side: "See how the spirit-shuttles fly, and one stroke such varied combinations makes."

As Döbereiner was influenced by Gæthe, thou by Döbereiner, and as thou in turn didst animate me, so may these words work good where we neither know nor can foresee. They may raise up a hero for the days that are coming, the days in which the dragon of prejudice and delusion will be slain. Therefore in good faith, as we have worked until now let us continue to work; the time must come when the right will prevail.

Our noble art will be wedded to true science, and physicians will *be* happier and *make* happier. Our work will never go down, because it promotes the most beneficial of arts, and that by strict investigation; and because it thereby belongs to the higher, the eternal; to that which was and is and is to come.

So fare thee well.

Thy CONSTANTINE HERING.

Phila., Aug. 28th, 1856.



COUNTWAY LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

RX

66

HL2 C3

RARE BOOKS DEPARTMENT

